



FEMA

Disclaimer: The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to www.weather.gov/srh and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Friday, March 16, 2018

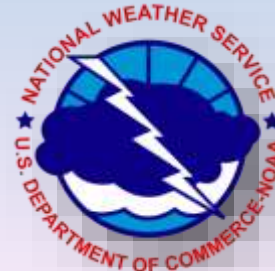
Issued: 0800 CT

Day 1 Weather Threats: Elevated to Critical Fire Weather conditions across E NM, TX/OK Panhandles, Upper Trans-Pecos and OK. A Red Flag Warning is in effect. Strong thunderstorms possible for E TX, AR and LA.

Moderate to major flooding continues with rivers on the rise on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River in LA and SE AR.

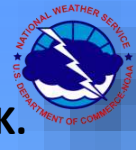
Minor to moderate flooding continues with rivers receding in E TX, NW LA and S & NE AR.

National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX



Prepared by: Felecia Bowser
817-978-1100 x 147

Key Points



Today

- **Critical Fire Weather conditions across E NM, TX /OK Panhandles, Upper Trans-Pecos, and OK.**
- **Strong thunderstorms are possible across E TX, SE OK, LA and AR –hail, damaging winds and a few tornadoes will be the main threats.**

Tomorrow

- **Strong thunderstorms possible for NE TX, SE OK, NW LA and SW AR.**
- **Elevated to Critical fire weather conditions may develop across E NM, W TX and OK Panhandles, Upper Trans-Pecos and into the Davis and Guadalupe Mountains.**

Saturday through Tuesday

- **Elevated to critical fire weather conditions may develop across E NM, TX and OK Panhandles, South Plains into the Davis and Guadalupe Mountains SATURDAY through MONDAY.**
- **Severe thunderstorms are possible for N OK, NE TX, N LA and S AR on SUNDAY – hail, damaging winds will be the main threat.**

River Flood Status

- **Rises will continue over the next week on the Lower Mississippi & Atchafalaya Rivers with crest levels similar to January 2016.**
- **Due to the operation of the Bonnet Carre spillway, New Orleans, LA & Reserve, LA are cresting and minor stage fluctuations will continue until the spillway is closed.**
- **The Ouachita River at Monroe, LA is near crest at 47.3ft. This is the 10th highest crest since records were established in the 1880s. A crest of this magnitude may result in local bayous and poor drainage roadways to flood.**
- **Rainfall between 1 to 2 inches is expected over the next 5 days across portions of LA and MS. This rainfall will cause river points along E LA and W MS to crest in the next few days to near Major Flood Stage before commencing to recede next weekend. Crest of this magnitude could cause the following impacts: Low-lying and poor drainage roadways may become covered with water.**

FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Mar 16, 2018 - Mar 20, 2018

DAY / THREAT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
Strong/Severe Storms	E TX/SE OK/LA/AR	NE TX/SE OK NW LA/SW AR	N OK/NE TX/N LA/S AR		
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding					
Fire Weather	E NM/ TX/OK Panhandles Upper Trans-Pecos /OK	E NM/W TX&OK Panhandles/Upper Trans-Pecos/Davis and Guadalupe Mtns.	E NM/W TX&OK Panhandles/Upp er Trans- Pecos/Davis and Guadalupe Mtns.	E NM/W TX&OK Panhandles/Upp er Trans- Pecos/Davis and Guadalupe Mtns.	
Winter					
River Flooding	E & S AR, N, E & SE LA				
	LA, AR				

	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

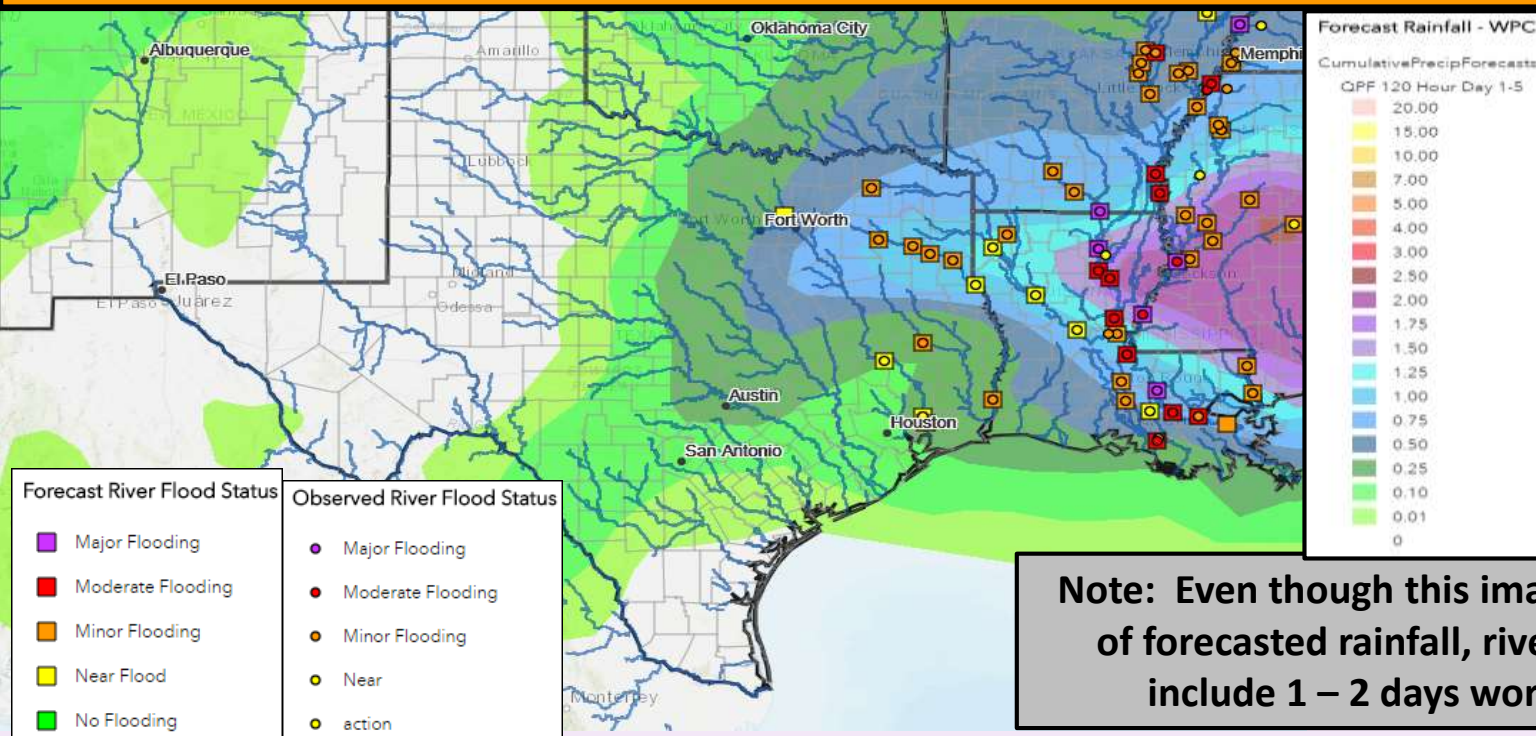
For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.



5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

- Moderate to major flooding continues with rivers rising on the Ouachita River, MS River & Atchafalaya River in LA, SE AR:**
- **Rises will continue over the next week on the Lower Mississippi & Atchafalaya Rivers with crest levels similar to January 2016.**
 - **Due to the operation of the Bonnet Carre spillway, New Orleans, LA & Reserve, LA are cresting and minor stage fluctuations will continue until the spillway is closed.**
 - **The Ouachita River at Monroe, LA is near crest at 47.3ft. This is the 10th highest crest since records were established in the 1880s.**
 - **Rainfall between 1 to 2 inches is expected over the next 5 days across portions of LA and MS. . This rainfall will cause river points along E LA and W MS to crest in the next few days to near Major Flood Stage before commencing to recede next weekend.**

Minor to moderate flooding continues with rivers receding in E TX, NW LA and S & NE AR.



Note: Even though this image displays 5 days of forecasted rainfall, river forecasts only include 1 – 2 days worth of rainfall.

See <http://water.weather.gov/ahps> for the latest on river flooding



Mississippi River Crest Watch

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced
morning of March 15, 2018

f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC



Location of Mississippi River Crest Today



Forecast Based on Bonnet Carré Operation



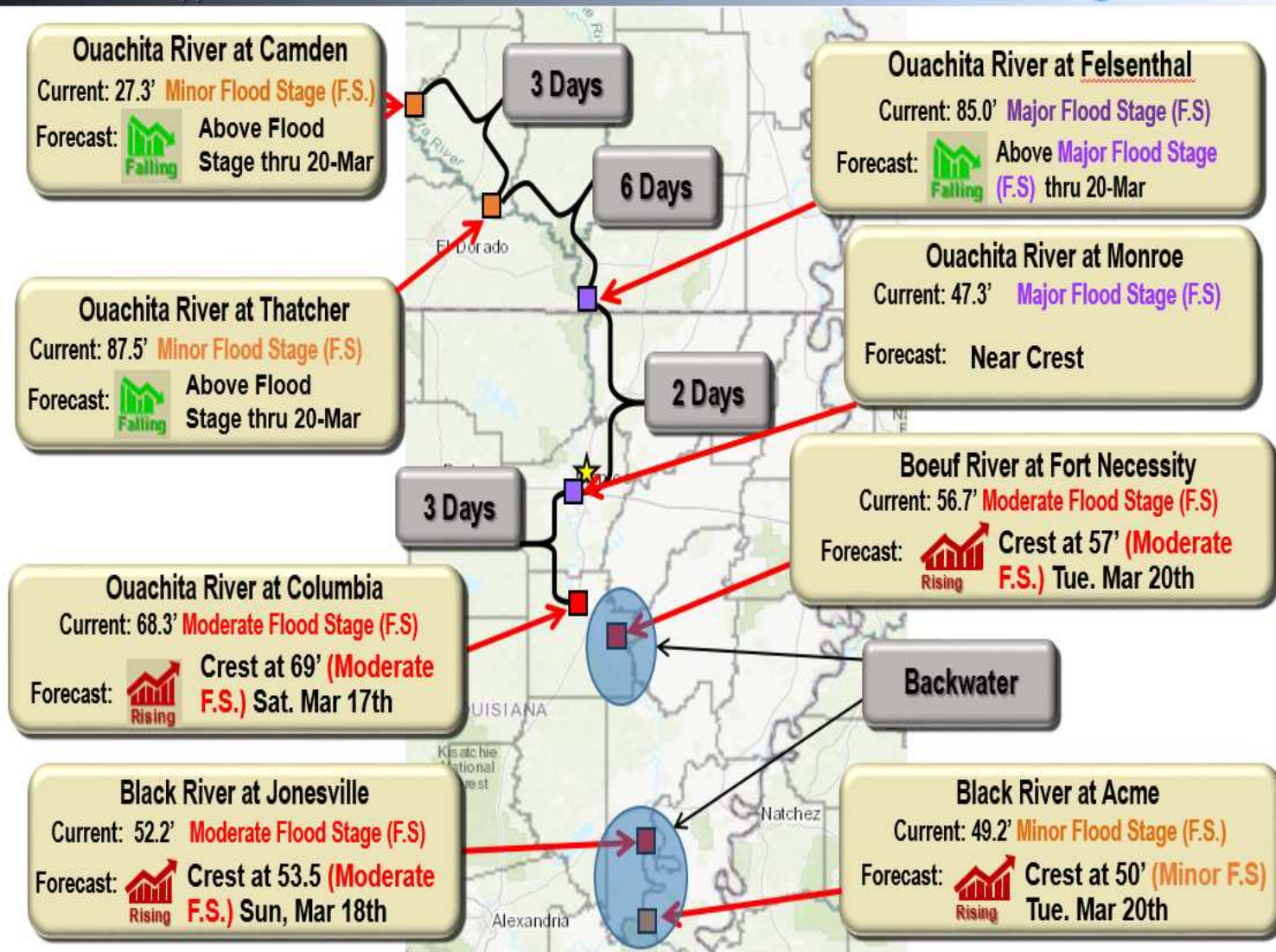
Ouachita River Crest Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts
produced morning of March 15, 2018

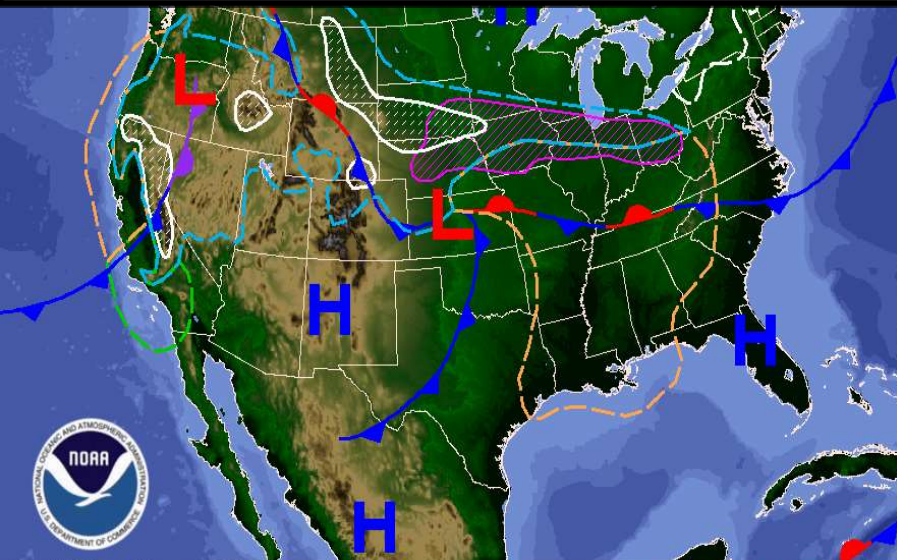
Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

f NWSLMRFC

🐦 @NWSLMRFC

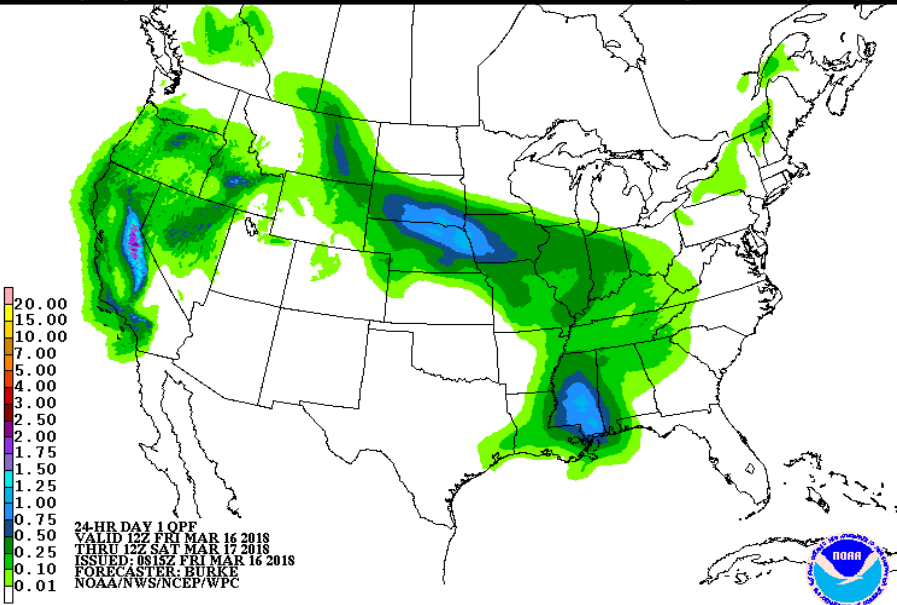


Today's Weather



Day 1 National Forecast Chart
Valid Fri, Mar 16, 2018, issued 5:00 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

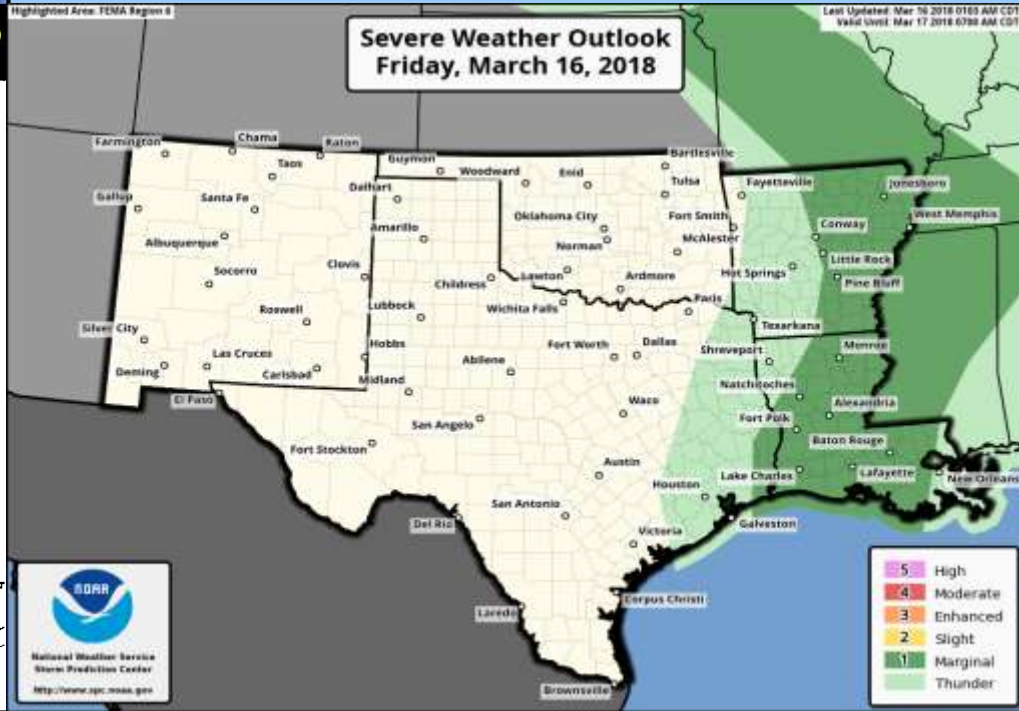


Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

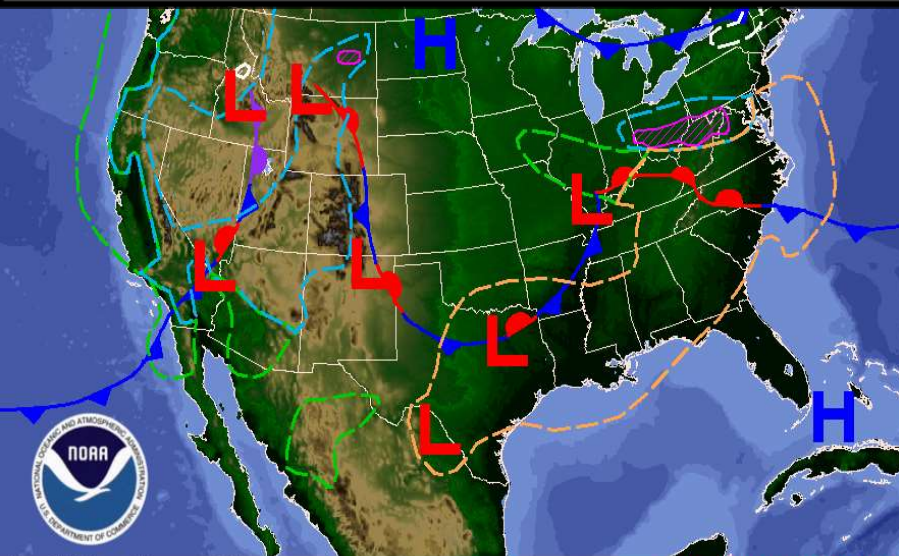
Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

Critical Fire Weather across E NM, TX & OK Panhandles, Upper Trans-Pecos and OK.

Strong thunderstorms possible for E TX, AR and LA. Hail, damaging winds, and a few tornadoes are the main threats.



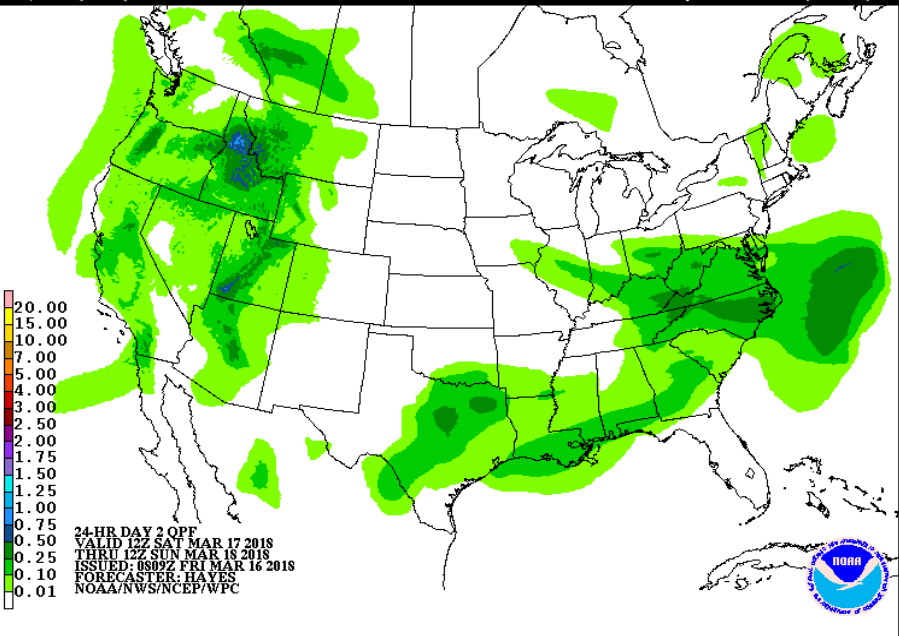
Tomorrow's Weather



Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Mar 17, 2018, issued 5:03 AM EDT Fri, Mar 16, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

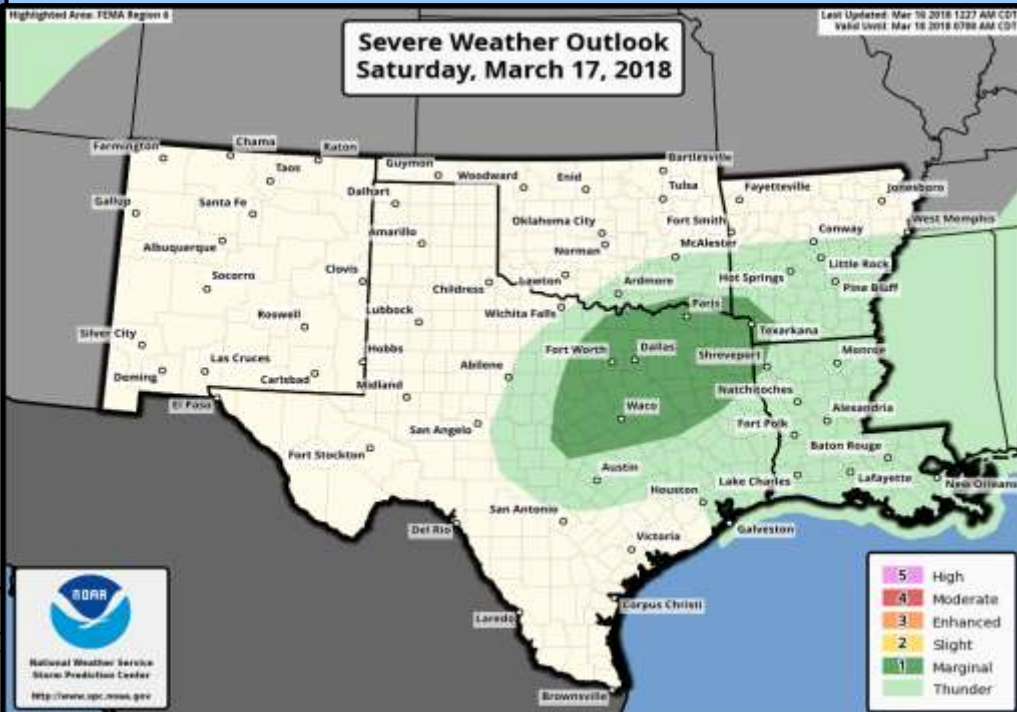


24-HR DAY 2 O/PF
VALID 12Z SAT MAR 17 2018
THRU 12Z SUN MAR 18 2018
ISSUED 0809Z FRI MAR 16 2018
FORECAST BY: HAYES
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

Strong thunderstorms will be possible across NE TX, SE OK, SW AR and NW LA. Hail will be the main threat.



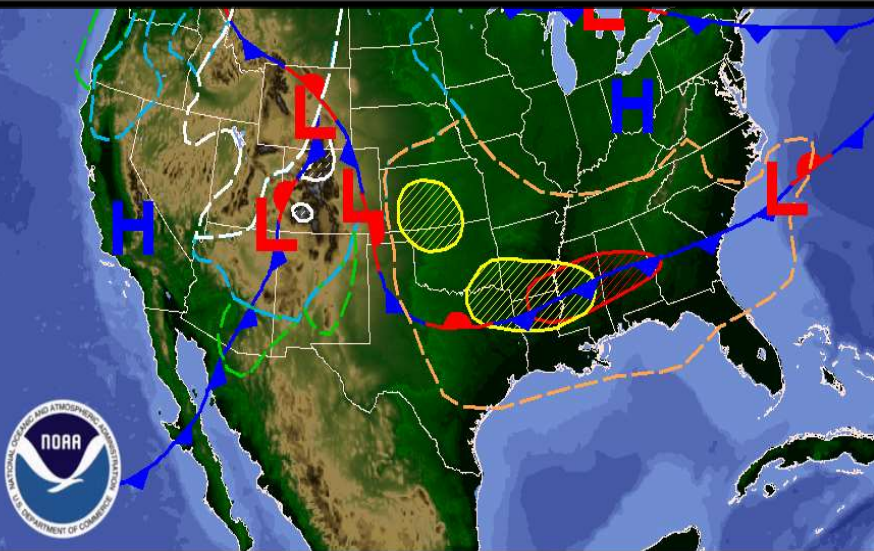
Severe Weather Outlook Saturday, March 17, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 16 2018 12:23 AM CDT
Valid Until: Mar 18 2018 07:00 AM CDT

NOAA
National Weather Service
Storm Prediction Center
<http://www.spc.noaa.gov>

5 High
4 Moderate
3 Enhanced
2 Slight
1 Marginal
Thunder

Sunday's Weather



Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

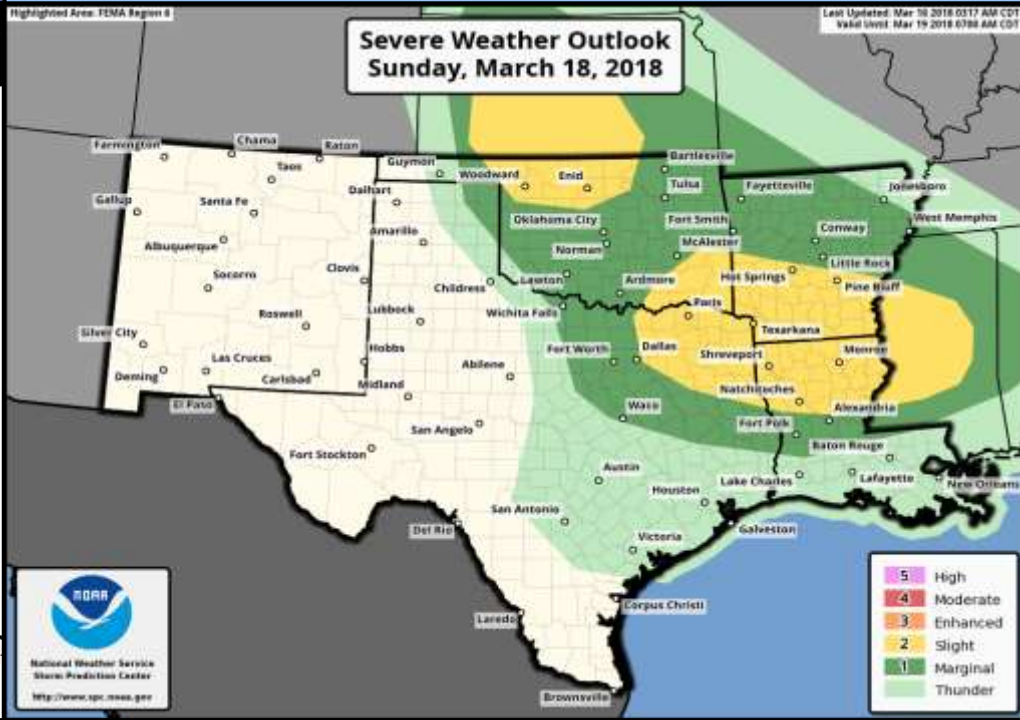
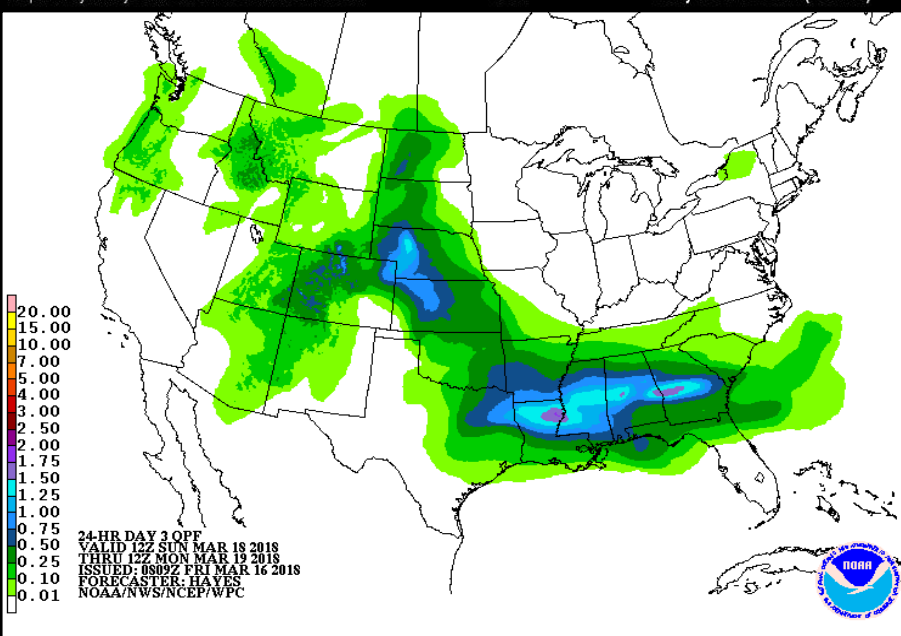
Elevated to Critical Fire Weather Conditions may develop across E NM, TX and OK Panhandles, South Plains into the Davis and Guadalupe Mountains

Severe storms possible for across N OK, NE TX, SE OK, N LA and S AR.

Day 3 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Mar 18, 2018, issued 5:06 AM EDT Fri, Mar 16, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

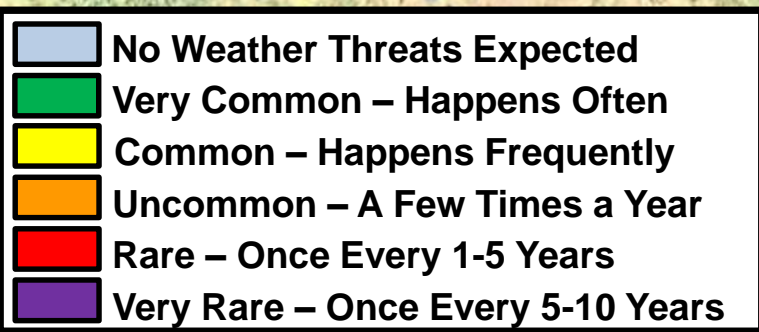


Day 4-5 Weather Hazards

Monday - Tuesday



**Elevated to Critical
Fire Weather
Conditions
Possible**

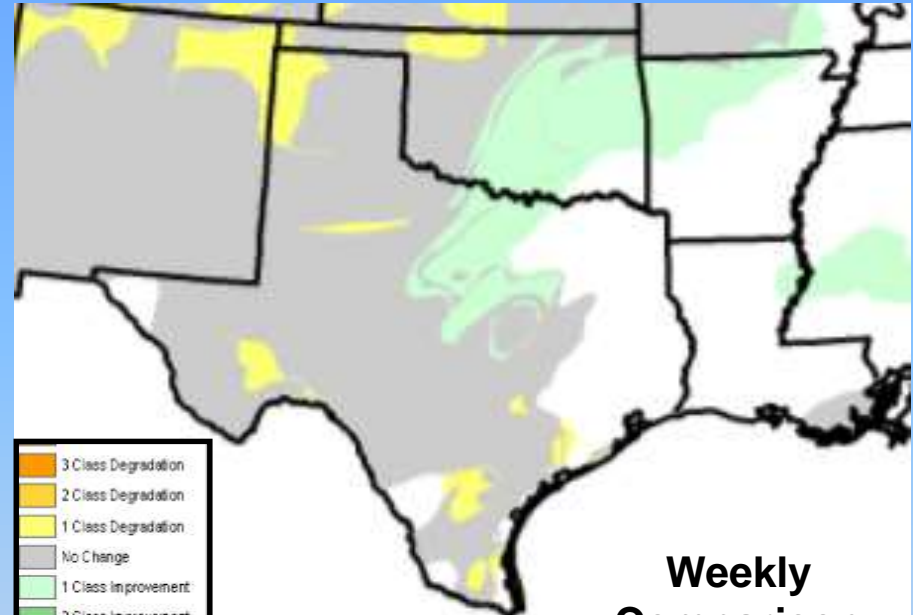
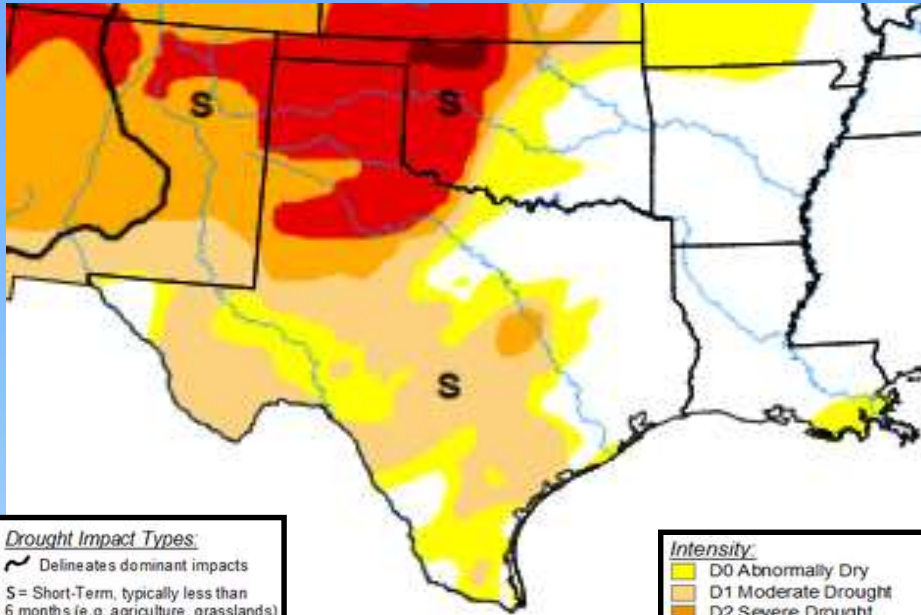


***Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.**



Drought Monitor Released March 15, 2018

Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, March 13, 2018



Drought Impact Types:
~ Delineates dominant impacts
S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

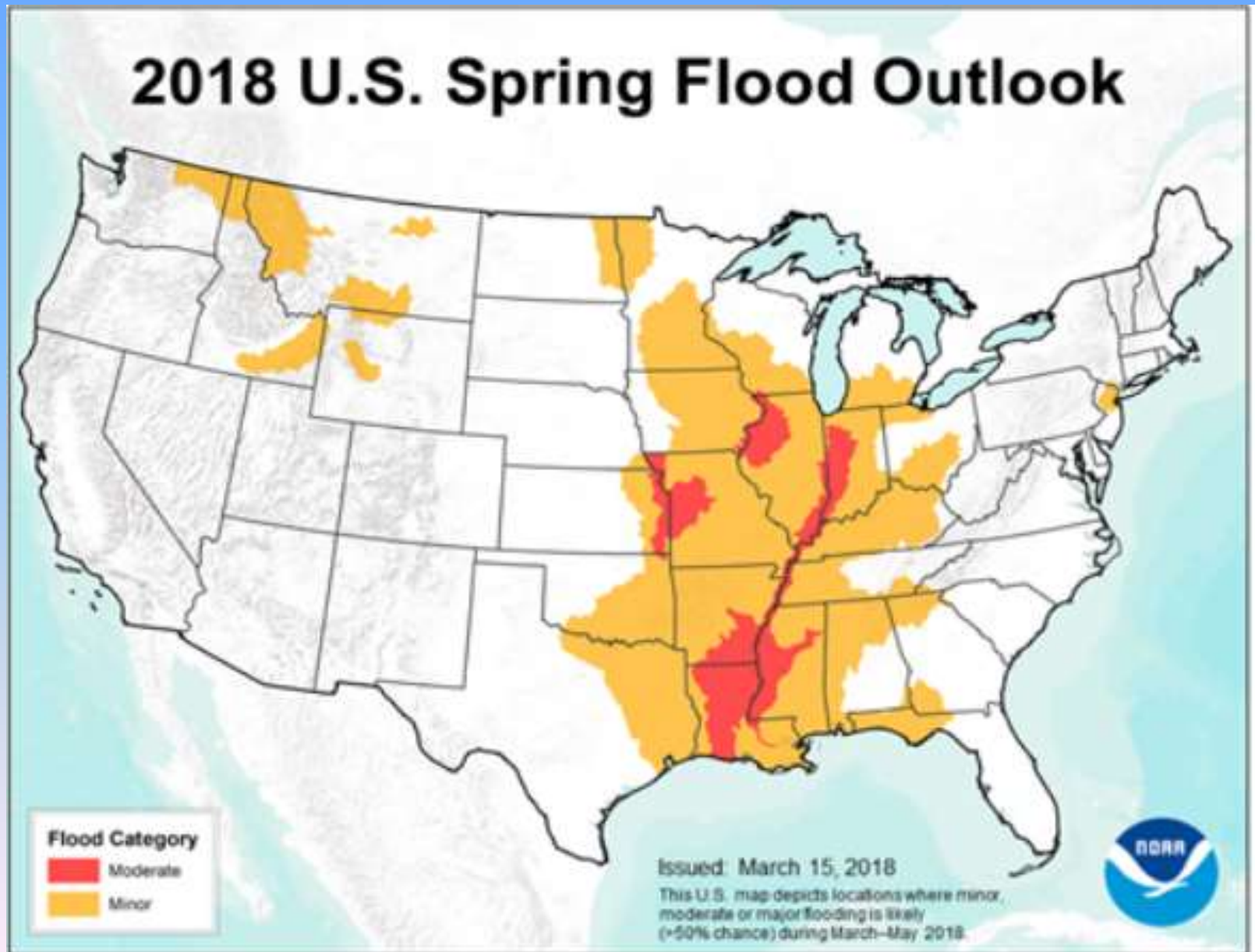
Intensity:
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

3 Class Degradation
2 Class Degradation
1 Class Degradation
No Change
1 Class Improvement
2 Class Improvement
3 Class Improvement

Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)

State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	0.00%	0.00%	42.40%	2.00%
Louisiana	0.00%	0.00%	7.07%	0.00%
Oklahoma	34.93%	34.45%	3.12%	3.17%
Texas	14.19%	14.16%	0.76%	0.00%
New Mexico	25.50%	17.08%	0.00%	0.00%

2018 U.S. Spring Flood Outlook Issued on March 15th



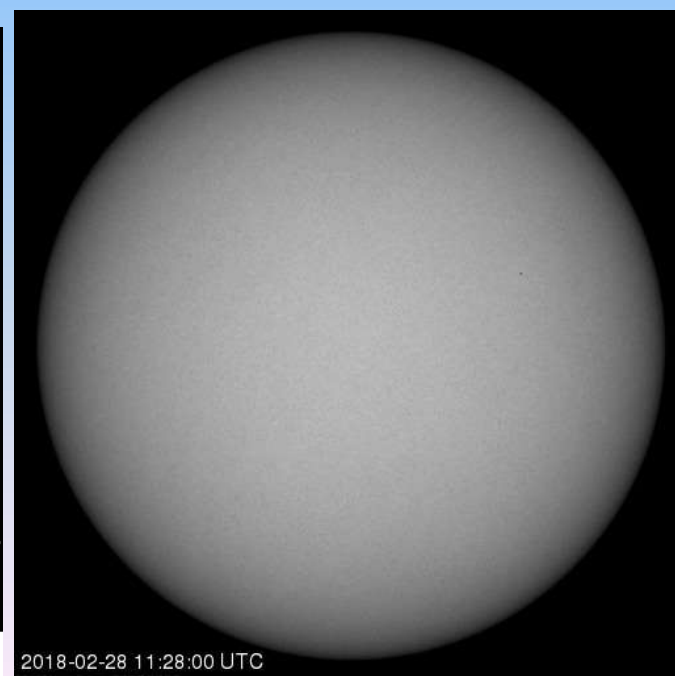
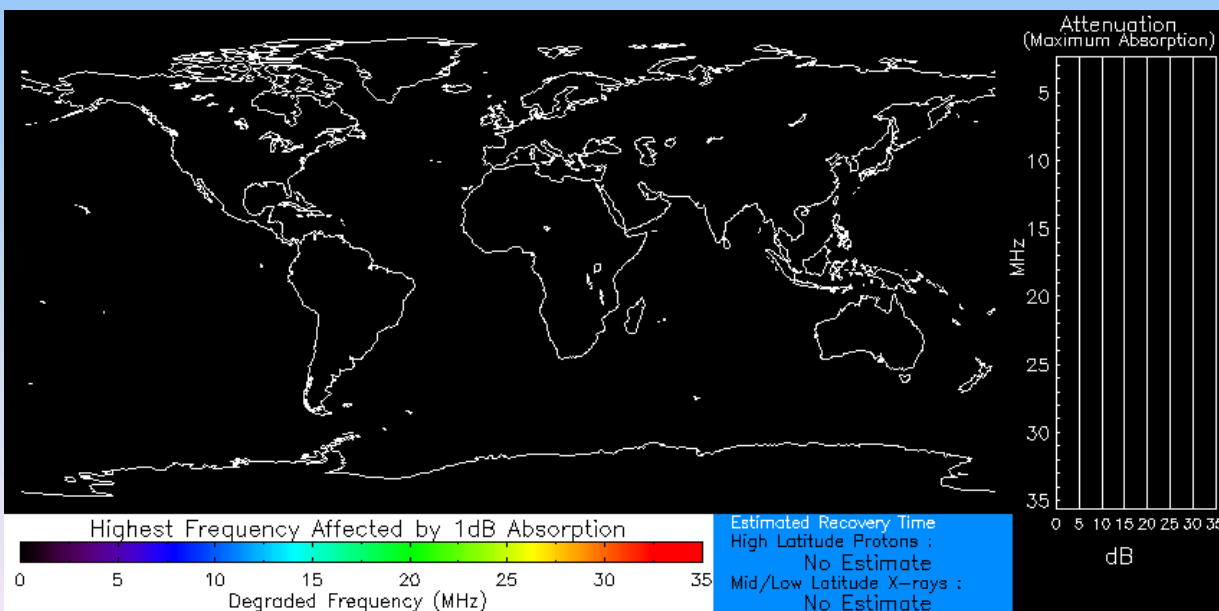
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Geomagnetic Storms	Unsettled to Active (Max Kp = 4)	Unsettled to Active (Max Kp = 4)	Unsettled to Active (Max Kp = 4)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



2018-02-28 11:28:00 UTC

Normal X-ray Background
Product Valid At : 2018-03-16 10:07 UTC

Normal Proton Background
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

Information provided by:



National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

Phone: (682) 703-3747 ***New Direct Number**
E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov
Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh> (**NEW link!!**)

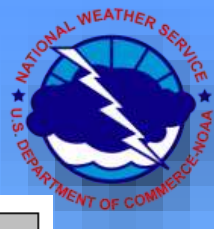
facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSSouthern>

twitter

@NWS_Southern_US https://twitter.com/NWS_Southern_US

The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov.



Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	Very Common Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX
Yellow	Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail
Orange	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected
Red	Rare – Once every 1-5 Years Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue
Purple	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms